



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB039]

#### Notice of Availability of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Draft Phase II Restoration Plan #3.2: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion; Extension of Public Comment Period

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We are extending the public comment period on our *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Draft Phase II Restoration Plan #3.2: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (Draft Phase II RP #3.2). We opened the original comment period via a March 5, 2021, **Federal Register** notice. This notice extends that comment period through June 3, 2021.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted electronically or postmarked by June 3, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** *Obtaining Documents:* You may download the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 at: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana>.

*Submitting Comments:* You may submit comments on the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 by one of the following methods:

- Via the Web: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MBSD>;
- Via U.S. Mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE, MVN-2012-2806-EOO, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118. Please note that mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the comment deadline of June 3, 2021;

- By email: Submit electronic comments to *CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil*; or
- By phone: Submit oral comments via the toll-free phone number: 1-866-211-9205.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Mel Landry, NOAA Restoration Center, (310) 427-8711, *gulfspill.restoration@noaa.gov*.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Introduction**

On March 20, 2018, the Louisiana TIG completed its Strategic Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #3: Restoration of Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats in the Barataria Basin, Louisiana (SRP/EA #3). In addition to identifying a restoration strategy for the Barataria Basin and confirming its 2018 decision to move forward with the Spanish Pass Increment of the Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation project, the SRP/EA also advanced a large-scale sediment diversion for further evaluation and planning in a future Phase II restoration plan. Since approval of the SRP/EA #3, the Louisiana TIG has been evaluating a variety of potential alternatives for this large-scale sediment diversion to meet its purpose: deliver freshwater sediment, and nutrients to the Barataria Basin through a large-scale sediment diversion from the Mississippi River; reconnect and re-establish sustainable deltaic processes between the Mississippi River and the Barataria Basin; and create, restore, and sustain wetlands and other deltaic habitats and associated ecosystem services. Tiering from the SRP/EA #3, the Louisiana TIG is proposing in this Phase II RP #3.2 implementation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the environmental consequences of the restoration alternatives are evaluated in the associated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE CEMVN)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion Project, Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes (MBSD DEIS) to which the Louisiana TIG Federal Trustees are cooperating agencies. The concurrent public comment period for the MBSD DEIS is also being extended 30 days and will close on the same date as the comment period for the Draft Phase II RP #3.2.

### **Background**

For additional background information, see our original **Federal Register** notice, with which we opened the comment period (86 FR 12915; March 5, 2021).

### **Invitation to Comment**

The Louisiana TIG seeks public review and comment on the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 (see **ADDRESSES** above). Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will become part of the public record.

### **Additional Access to Materials**

You may request a CD of the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Copies of the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 are also available for review during the public comment period at the following locations:

### **Hard Copies of the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 and MBSD DEIS**

Location	Address
Lafitte Library	4917 City Park Drive Lafitte, LA 70067 (504) 689-5097
West Bank Regional Library	2751 Manhattan Boulevard Harvey, LA 70058 (504) 364-2660
East New Orleans Regional Library	5641 Read Boulevard New Orleans, LA 70127 (504) 596-0200
Belle Chasse Library	8442 Highway 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037 (504) 394-3570

Port Sulphur Library	139 Civic Drive Port Sulphur, LA 70083 (337) 527-7200
Buras Library	35572 Highway 11 Buras, LA 70041 (504) 564-0944
South Lafourche Library	16241 East Main Street Cut Off, LA 70345 (985) 632-7140
St. Charles Parish Library Paradis Branch	307 Audubon Street Paradis, LA 70080 (985) 758-1868

**Hard Copies of the Draft Phase II RP #3.2 and MBSD DEIS Executive Summary  
with Electronic Copies of the Draft EIS and Appendices on a USB**

Location	Address
St. Tammany Parish Library	310 W. 21st Avenue Covington, LA 70433 (985) 893-6280
Terrebonne Parish Library	151 Library Drive  Houma, LA 70360 (985) 876-5861
New Orleans Public Library	219 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 596-2570
East Baton Rouge Parish Library	7711 Goodwood Boulevard Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (225) 231-3750
Jefferson Parish Library East Bank Regional Library	4747 W. Napoleon Avenue Metairie, LA 70001 (504) 838-1190
St. Bernard Parish Library	2600 Palmisano Boulevard Chalmette, LA 70043 (504) 279-0448
St. Martin Parish Library	201 Porter Street St. Martinville, LA 70582 (337) 394-2207
Alex P. Allain Library	206 Iberia Street Franklin, LA 70538 (337) 828-5364
Vermilion Parish Library	405 E. Victor Street Abbeville, LA 70510 (337) 893-2674
Martha Sowell Utley Memorial Library	705 W. 5th Street Thibodaux, LA 70301 (985) 447-4119
Calcasieu Parish Public Library	301 W. Claude Street

Central Branch	Lake Charles, LA 70605 (337) 721-7116
Iberia Parish Library	445 E. Main Street New Iberia, LA 70560 (337) 364-7024
LSU Agricultural Center, Southwest Region	1105 West Port Street Abbeville, LA 70510 (337) 898-4335

### **Authority**

The authority of this action is the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) and its implementing Oil Pollution Act Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at 15 CFR part 990 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Dated: April 22, 2021.

Carrie Diane Robinson,

Director, Office of Habitat Conservation,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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